

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 were pending in the case prior to amendment. Claims 31 and 32 were allowed. Claims 8-15, 22-26, 34, and 36 were objected to. Claims 1-7, 16-21, 27-30, 33, and 35 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over one or more of 35 U.S.C. 101, 112, 102, and 103.

Please cancel claims 1, 23, 28, and 31-36, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 37-40. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 18, 19, 21, 27, 29, and 30

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include features similar to those in previous claim 8, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. It is believed that the current amendment of claim 1 places claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7, 9-15, 18, 19, 21, 27, 29, and 30 depend from claim 1 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

Claims 16, 17, 22, 24-26, 37-39, and 40

Independent claims 16, 37, and 40 include features similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1 above, and are in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons. Dependent claims 17, 22, 24-26, 38, and 39 depend from independent claims 16 and 37 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as the associated independent claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue, or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated 2/2/10

Respectfully submitted,

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